

Environment Committee Public Hearing 3.7.2022

RE: SB 243- An Act Concerning Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, and members of the Environment Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 243- An Act Concerning Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices.

My name is Janna Siller and I am the Farm Director at Adamah in Falls Village, CT. Our farm grows organic produce for a local Community Supported Agriculture program, for our onsite retreat center dining services, and for regional food pantries. We educate young farmers and community members by hosting a residential fellowship program, an apprenticeship program, onsite tours, and workshops.

In addition to farming, I represent our nonprofit organization as a member of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

Here in northwest Connecticut we are living with the real time effects of climate change. Here on the farm, we see the ways that unpredictable weather, extreme precipitation events, and higher average temperatures present serious challenges to growing our business.

As we each work to adapt to changing conditions, Connecticut farmers also want to be part of mitigating climate change with climate-smart agricultural solutions. We also see how those same mitigation measures make our farms more resilient as cover cropping, composting, and reducing tillage all improve soil health, the basis of our long term economic viability.

Connecticut consumers want their state to be populated by thriving local farms taking a climate-smart approach. Our CSA members and others in our community tell us all the time how much they value the climate-smart practices we use. Farmers need significantly more support to pursue these practices at scale.

SB 243: An Act Concerning Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices would be a wise step in the right direction, providing for reimbursement or payment of agricultural restoration plans that include climate-smart practices, as defined by the United State Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 243. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Janna Siller- Adamah Farm

Falls Village, CT